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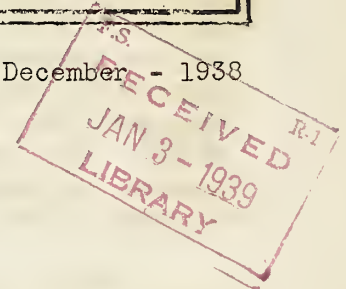




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SEES SHELTERBELT AS "ANNUITY POLICY"

I reckon that by now I'm pretty familiar with the various types of insurance, with solicitors making this office regularly, and there is one type which to my mind fits all the specifications of shelterbelts. I wonder how many of you have thought of shelterbelts in terms of annuity insurance policies -- cases where you can have your cake and eat it, too.

The annuity type of insurance protects the life investment of the insured for the beneficiaries, and at the same time is a tangible investment for the benefit of the insured himself, increasing from year to year and paying dividends during his life. It is the same with shelterbelts.

A farmer, for instance, invests a small portion of his farm to be planted in shelterbelts to protect his soil and crops. In four or five years, depending on how much he has paid in on his policy (number of times cultivated and other care), he begins to receive dividends from his investment. He has controlled his soil from blowing, he has protected his crops from the hot winds, he has retarded evaporation, thus conserving much of the moisture in his fields and increasing his crop yields.

As the farmer continues to invest in his trees his dividends increase and, when his policy matures, he has a policy which not only continues to protect the soil and crops -- and thereby protect the life investment in the value of the farm for the beneficiaries after his death -- but he has built up the policy so that its cash dividends through increased crop yields and the cash value of the investment (that is, the cash value of the trees) are many times the accumulative remuneration he could have received from sowing this small portion of his farm to wheat.

- Ralph V. Johnston, Kans.



### EVEN THE JACKRABBIT HELPS--SOMETIMES

There is a little bad in the best of us, and a little good in the worst of us -- even unto the lowly, pestiferous jackrabbit, for his skin under many names will keep the girl friend warm, and his carcass will provide nutriment for man, beast and fowl. In fact, the dern pest actually brings in considerable cash.

The largest item is from the sale of skins, which a few years ago could not be sold at any price. Last year, in the United States, 8 million jackrabbit pelts were sold for about \$2,000,000. As a supplemental food for hens, jackrabbit carcasses are valuable. The meat diet added to other rations increases egg production, and last winter 1800 rabbits taken in cooperative rabbit drives near Stapleton, Nebraska, by the Stapleton Hunt Club were sold to individual farmers for five cents each, making a total of \$90. The meat was used for tankage and the pelts sold for fur. One company in Colorado sold a million pounds of jackrabbits to fox farmers in Colorado alone.

While the various credits for jackrabbits do not compensate for the damage the pests do, surely there is nothing against making them pay in cash as well as in lives for some of the injury they do. The American farmer may dislike taking the trouble to shoot jackrabbits in the fields morning and evening for his poultry; this suggests itself as a practice which would often pay good profits. At the same time, control would be exercised precisely where and when most needed.

- Carroll F. Orendurff, Nebr.

### THE JONES FAMILY STILL LEADS THE PACK

"Keeping up with the Joneses" is an old bromide that quite adequately describes one of the most useful tools in salesmanship. We all use it in one form or another. When we in South Dakota fall down the boys from the Regional Office throw at us what Oklahoma or Nebraska has done. When a District Officer lags we call his attention to what other Districts have done. Such tactics are all "keeping up with the Joneses" theory of salesmanship.

We use this idea in land negotiation activities and it works. The whole scheme is based on friendly competition or rivalry. Individuals, families, cities, towns, communities, counties and even states are rivals in a sense. In the American scheme of things there is a continual striving to keep just a bit ahead of your neighbor whether that neighbor be an individual or a county. This fact is usable in land negotiation work and this is how.

As a concrete example, we opened up a new district this year at Watertown with a subdistrict at Brookings attached. We allotted 234 miles of belt to this district. The Watertown and Brookings trade territories are friendly rivals. At a public meeting at Brookings the question was asked, "How many miles of belt does Brookings County get?" The answer was "That's up to you folks." It was then explained that 234 miles had been allotted to the district and land negotiation would proceed until that goal was reached. If Watertown got 134 miles, Brookings necessarily would get only 100 miles and vice versa as planting stock was available for only that amount in the district. That had the desired effect. The spirit of friendly rivalry popped off like a weak steam valve. The idea in the minds of the



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Brookings leaders was "Beat Watertown." The leaders in the various townships went to work and the result was very noticeably reflected in the applications received. At Watertown the same scheme was used and their idea was to "beat Brookings." Although the result is these two communities are working against each other in a friendly competitive way, the comforting thing is both are working for us.

The manner in which this idea works may be further illustrated by the following letter received at the State Office:

"I and several of my neighbors have become interested in the shelterbelt project. We are very much interested in getting these belts and would like to know why some steps have not been taken to get them lined up.

"I understand that the people in the South part of the county have been lined up on their shelterbelts. I also understand the people in the North part of the county might lose their allotment to the South part unless they are lined up at once.

"The descriptions of the land involved is NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of 11, SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of 3 and the SW $\frac{1}{2}$  of 2 - 107-58."

This lady is fearful that "the Joneses" (the south part of Miner County) is going to get ahead of the north part. The result is she is doing a mighty good job for us but doesn't know it. This idea if properly used makes a difference in the columns "Total Applications Received" and "Applications on Which No Action Taken."

- A. L. Ford, S.Dak.

#### SHELTERBELTS A CONSERVATION PRACTICE?

The Russell Rustlers 4-H Club in Russell County prepared a conservation booth for the Wichita Fat Stock Show this fall, using a miniature example of a field shelterbelt as the theme of their work.

The members made up their own arrangement of the small shelterbelt and prepared a cross section poster for use in the background. It was interesting to note the composition which they worked out by themselves. They used White Pine in one of the conifer rows which is of course a species which is not adapted for use in the Plains area.

We are inclined to believe that the public is beginning to realize the value of field shelterbelts as an important soil and crop conservation practice, since the booth carried home a first prize of \$30. A judge was overheard to have said that the subject would have easily been worthy of the grand championship prize had a little more tact been used in the exhibition of the booth. So far as we have been able to learn the judges were not from the Forest Service or associated with shelterbelt planting.

- C. Lyman Calahan, Kans.

"I would like a preparation of phenylisothiocyanate."

Drug Clerk: "Do you mean mustard oil?"

"Yes, I can never think of that name."

- Region 9 Daily Contact

## FIELD DAY HELD IN OKLAHOMA

The organization value of an assembly of the field personnel just before undertaking a big job was particularly well demonstrated by the Oklahoma unit on November 25, when a field day for training was held at the Mangum nursery. The program opened at 10 A.M. and ended at 5 P.M. Lunch was served by the three girls of the Mangum District office.

It all came about when our six newly appointed Shelterbelt Assistants indicated a desire to become acquainted with other members of the Oklahoma unit and to get first-hand knowledge of the tree species, nursery production, heeling-in methods, standard practices in handling stock, and other things. A meeting for all supervisory personnel was suggested to State Director Nelson, who set the date as November 25. In attendance were 27 men, including most squad foremen, all sub-district supervisors or Shelterbelt Assistants, two district supervisors, both nurserymen, Assistant Forester Kyle of the State Office, R. J. Woolery of the research branch, Junior Biological Aide Regnier, and me. Director Nelson was unable to attend.

The program was carried out right to schedule, and even though there was some joking and horseplay the serious interest and spirit of cooperation exhibited made one proud to be a member of the group. The heeling-in demonstration, followed by heeling-in practice by four or five willing volunteer groups, was a high spot of the day, as was also the intense interest in the identification of species.

After the close of the gathering several remarked that they never had seen nursery digging work before and felt that they are now better equipped to talk intelligently to prospective cooperators. All agreed that the meeting was worth while and that such gatherings should be held more often. This was the first visit to the Mangum nursery for a number who have been with the Oklahoma unit for several years.

It is my belief that this field day, aside from the training received by all, was instrumental in knitting our organization more firmly into a unified group for handling the big and important job of planting ahead of us.

- Max Pfaender, Okla.

## NEXT TIME WE'LL DRAW A PICTURE

The following sentence is quoted from Ed Perry's "I-INFORMATION-Press Releases" letter to State Directors of November 25: "If there are cases where neighbors have been forced to leave, so much the better."

Why the occasion for this drastic change in policies and objectives? We have been under the impression all along that the theme song of this outfit is "How You Going to Keep 'Em Down on the Farm."

- A. L. Ford, S.Dak.

(Well, Al, I just turned your note over to Hal Swan, who framed the letter, and he insists that he said just what he meant. He says he thought it would be easier to show how to keep 'em on the farm if he could get an illustration of how it wasn't done. To be sure, Hal, being an ex-newspaper scribe, used somewhat more colorful language than the above, but since our secretary and censor don't approve of such words his hands -- or rather, tongue -- is tied, and we had to use more formal but much less descriptive talk. - Ed.)

## LETTER-WRITING SCHOOL IN REGION NINE

Systematic effort to improve R-9 correspondence was begun December 7 at Regional Headquarters when the first section of the Division Chiefs, their assistants and others who sign mail, attended their first meeting of a letter-writing course which will continue until December 19. The R.O. students will receive training comparable to a correspondence supervisor in a large concern so that they may be able to review letters constructively and develop subordinates who can write live letters.

The class is in agreement that while millions of letters bearing stamps reach the dead letter office because of improper addresses there are a comparable number of letters bearing franks which are also dead, because they reach the files instead of the mind of the recipient. A recent study of a Government Department where the weekly output averaged 10,200 letters revealed that over 60% of the material in the letters was useless; the letters were not clear and they were deficient in other ways, which cost that department an estimated \$4,500 weekly.

"Don't kill your wife over a washtub. Let the laundry do it." The unfortunate laundry owner who made that statement in a direct mail advertisement may have received some comfort when official letters which contained the same kind of errors, both received by and sent from the Regional Office, were read in class. Say what you mean and say it so that there can be only one possible interpretation, heads the list of requisites in the field of correspondence. Use clear words, clear to the reader as well as to the sender. Remember the case of the "riparian owner" who did not appreciate being referred to as the "rip rarin' owner," an extreme case, no doubt, but nevertheless it illustrates a point especially important when corresponding with the public.

"Sesquipedalian verbiage and how to eliminate it will come later on the program," said Pommerening, "and there will also be time given to the Forest Officer who unconsciously says, 'I didn't have time to write a short letter so I wrote a long letter.' Most letters, Government or private, are too long."

- R-9 Daily Contact

## TM - WHERE ARE YOU?

I would like to call your attention to the paragraph in the first issue of PLAINS FORESTER, October 1936. We are still waiting for an answer from TM.

Practically all of our 1935 and 1936 shelterbelt plantings are now established. The canopy is entirely closed over and weed growth was eliminated this last season. This writer believes that now is the proper time to plant red cedar in these plantings. The cedar will be protected from drying winds and there is sufficient moisture in the shaded ground to keep them vigorous and growing during the summer. I believe it would be possible to establish two rows of cedar in every belt that has grown large enough to form a canopy. We could plant between the rows since it is not necessary to cultivate any more.

- Howard Carleton, Jr., Okla.



#### OLD POTATO PEELER SAVES SEED

We have been concerned about the loss of good seed by cracking the pit and by washing away good fruit with the pulp, when we used our macerator. This was especially true of pitted seeds or firm-fleshed fruits. We have found the remedy in an obsolete potato peeler belonging to a project employee at our seed extractory, who suggested its trial.

This machine consists of a five-gallon drum with roughened interior sides and bottom, and with a drain for refuse and water through the bottom. The bottom revolves, the speed governed by variations in the size of the motor pulleys. After making minor changes in this device, we find that we can depulp seeds the size of red cedar with real success. There is no loss whatever from cracking and no seeds float away with the refuse. We have used the machine to depulp hackberry and Russian olive and have noticeably increased our depulping output per man day. We can see no reason why this outfit will not be equally effective on chokecherry and similar species with fairly solid fruit.

We always have had trouble cleaning red cedar from the pulp. This machine, used after macerating the fruit, greatly simplifies washing. Seed placed in the potato peeler is quickly washed without waste. Leaving the seed in the machine for a longer time results in scarification. To date we have not left seed in the machine long enough for complete scarification, but we believe that it would be faster than our regular scarifier.

Although this old potato peeler is now obsolete and no doubt not obtainable on the market, similar machines could easily be constructed using it as a model or pattern.

- Harold M. Devick, N.Dak.

#### MAYBE A BEAR TRAP WOULD HOLD HIM, TOO

If opportunity knocks once, don't wait to see if she'll break the rules and knock again -- grab her arm and pull her in. We had an experience in Dewey County, town of Leedey, which has convinced us that such is the proper line of attack.

The territory is new to us, having only recently been turned over to our subdistrict, and our first trip there was merely for reconnaissance. Our first stop, of course, was to see the local editor who had already been contacted by the State Office through the medium of news releases. He was prepared for us and willing to listen. We gave him both barrels.

In 45 seconds he had whisked us off to a friend of his who owned a farm but spent most of his waking hours managing a small cafe and the town theater. We reloaded and fired again. One and a half hours later, we were the guests of the Leedey Lions Club at a turkey dinner, after which we gave the Lions our No. 1 Shelterbelt Address. The result was doubtful. For a time, no reference was made to the talk, the members merely proceeding with the day's business in a manner that convinced us that it is a live-wire outfit. Before long, however, a member brought up the shelterbelt question and a committee of three was appointed to cooperate with us. We conferred with the committee then and there, arranging a tentative show-me trip and a farmers' meeting and explaining the Forest Service program in the Prairie States and how the Lions could help.



Our second trip to the area, several days later (the week of this writing) was made to complete arrangements for the show-me trip and meeting and to contact key men. So far, we have an active and, we hope, effective publicity campaign under way, and have received several unlooked-for applications. The territory is ripe and we have to pick it before it turns.

- Fred R. Yaruss and A. T. Nelson, Okla.

#### "JIMMY WATTS, JR." IS THE TITLE OF THIS

After reading Mr. Olson's article, "Take a Lesson from Jimmy Watts," I must admit that he "hit the nail on the head."

In August I set up a subdistrict at Enderlin. While out borrowing furniture and looking for a place to roost, I had to meet several of the town's leaders. The first was the banker, who had considerable land and was interested in our program. He applied for five miles of windbreak.

A few days later I got a fence crew started and went to see the banker about material. He computed the cost of material, \$820 as both sides had to be fenced on all belts. He did some more figuring and found that it took 3,417 bushels of rye, the crop on 400 acres of land, to get the needed cash, and decided to cancel the applications as he couldn't see any reason for fencing as long as he had no livestock and there is very little livestock in the area.

Our State Director had approved a few belts under similar circumstances so I decided to take this case up with him, and he in turn presented it to the Regional Office. The answer received in a few days was practically: "No fence, no trees." I went back to the banker and used some of the steam, with the result that he signed up for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles and ordered the fence material. I must have been convincing, because this banker has put up some excellent arguments to farmers in that vicinity as to why it is necessary to fence. To date he has turned in applications from other landowners for about 10 miles of trees.

- R. G. Deede, N.Dak.

#### HOW ABOUT MORE SOILS TRAINING MEETINGS?

December 9 and 10 the writer had the privilege of attending a soils training meeting at Memphis, Texas, at which the soils specialists from Region 6 of the Soil Conservation Service trained the Texas Prairie States Forestry Project field personnel on soil identification and characteristics and the recommended agricultural practices for the different soil types of that area.

Judging from the enthusiastic manner in which our men received this training, it would seem that our personnel is anxious to have more of this type of instruction as a background for their negotiation and planting work. Detailed men from the North who were in attendance expressed the thought that a similar meeting in their home State would be very helpful.

In addition to the actual technical knowledge gained from this meeting, a common understanding of what the different terms in soils terminology as applied to our Texas soils now exists among the Texas personnel.

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

#### PIONEER UPDEGROVE A SHELTERBELT SALESMAN

Farmer Updegrove hired a man to till his farm one summer while he himself planted trees around his place (Kansas). That was 40 years ago. The neighbors intimated that he was crazy, but he paid no attention and went ahead setting out trees.

One day last week, when the wind was whistling savagely out of the North, we went by the Updegrove place nine miles southwest of Alden. Old Man Updegrove is dead now, but he left a fine memorial behind. All around the 80 are tall, fine, sturdy trees - seven or eight rows deep in places. East and west across the 80 are intermediate timber strips.

We turned in and drove up the lane. Out on the highway the wind had swept by our car in unchecked fury. On the farmstead it blew only in light fitful gusts, its force broken and diverted by the line of trees on the north. In a field north of the house we found a young man shucking corn. He looked comfortable -- no dust and chilling breeze to bother him. "What's the corn making?" we asked. "About 30 bushels," he replied. "The field south of the house is making 45 to 50 bushels. No corn like it around here."

So Logan Bennett, the present occupant of the place, is reaping the benefit of Mr. Updegrove's sagacity. At least part of his success in raising corn is due to the fact that trees prevent evaporation. He has a wind-break, summer and winter. The only dust he sees passes overhead, whipped up from other men's unprotected fields. In summer the trees keep the farm surprisingly cool and livable. Only once in all the hot weather of recent years has the family been unable to sleep upstairs, and that night the temperature stayed at the century mark.

There are about 15 acres of trees on the Updegrove place. Instead of begrudging the space they take, Mr. Bennett insists he would not tear them out for anything.

What Pioneer Updegrove accomplished is the aim also of the present shelterbelt program sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture.

Visionary aspects and distasteful requirements have been trimmed off the old shelterbelt program until now it is recognized as one of the most practical of all the fantastic schemes to come out of the hectic 30's. Even rock-ribbed Republicans who bristle up at every mention of the New Deal generally concede that this tree-planting endeavor is sound and is likely to produce lasting benefits.

- Lyons Daily News, Lyons, Kans.

(The above is the introduction to a two-column story carried in the Lyons News after the editor had taken a trip through Kansas planting districts. The rest of the story deals with the places visited and explaining the shelterbelt program, all of it in a favorable vein. The trip, which included parts of Rice and Reno Counties, was arranged by Ted Stebbins, squad foreman handling the Rice subdistrict, and it is evident that he presented the program in an exceptionally capable manner. The trip, too, was apparently well planned. - Ed.)

## FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN OKLAHOMA

Farm forestry associations are receiving inspiring acceptance in many localities in Oklahoma. They are organized when cooperators and interested farmers are assembled to discuss the work of the Forest Service, its possibilities, and the part the people can play in the program of planting for the proper protection of their farms. These meetings usually are held at local school buildings, the teachers and the children advertising the meetings and in many cases doing a better job than we can do by personal contact.

A lecture illustrated by colored slides usually comes first. This helps to convince the audience of the necessity of protection and shows them by actual example what can be accomplished with shelterbelts. A general history, showing the progress of the work in the last three years, is included in the lecture.

The second part of a meeting consists of an open discussion led by a Forest Officer, regarding the possibilities of a farm forestry association, what it should consist of and what should be its objectives. Cooperators are called on for suggestions and comments, giving each a chance to express himself in public and it has a great effect on his neighbors.

On one occasion a man who had recently applied for a 1939 planting was so enthusiastic that he practically took charge of the meeting when he was called upon. He called on each of the men present and all had favorable comments. The organization was then easily established with three officers - president, vice-president and secretary.

The Forest Service now has a cornerstone laid in that community from which to start further work. A protection plan will be worked out for this community in cooperation with the association and the association members will help carry it through.

I believe an organization of this kind is well worth the time and effort expended because it will be of great help to later negotiation work.

- Claude S. Asp, Okla.

## MENTAL EROSION NEXT?

Every human being is endowed with a limited and infinitely precious stock of attention-power; and life today is such that--unless the individual is singularly obstinate and cunning--this power of the mind may easily be dissipated or conventionalized by endless competitive demands. By newspapers, by electric lights, by telephone, by radio, by moving pictures, by airplane and motorcar and church and school and State, by a thousand appeals, admonitions, and interruptions, the mind is assailed and distracted. We hear a good deal about the agriculture problem of soil erosion: hillsides denuded of fertile topsoil by the actions of streams, or great regions of the Middle Western richness scoured off by dust storms. Surely not less serious is the matter of mind erosion: the dust storms of daily excitement and of continual triviality can easily blow away the sensitive topsoil of the spirit.

- Christopher Morley, (Streamlines)  
(Readers Digest, February 1937)



THIS ISN'T A SHELTERBELT MAN'S JOB, ANYWAY

Did you ever try moving a 12-foot spruce tree? Well, we did!

It happened last spring, and for a while we thought we wouldn't have a spruce to show for it. It happened this way:

Early last spring, when the Enderlin Nursery office was being landscaped, a local commercial nursery presented us with a large 12-foot spruce-- provided we would move it. Now handling trees of that size is no job for an outfit equipped to handle seedlings, but we made a stab at it with the available tools and a small crew of men. We succeeded in balling the dirt about the roots, tied the dirt in place with a canvas and loaded the whole thing on a truck. The dirt weighed about 1,000 pounds. While we were unloading the tree at the planting site, the canvas gave way and the entire ball of dirt was lost and it seemed as though a phony nickel would have been too much to offer for a chance of the tree's survival. We planted the tree, however, and gave its top two applications of Dowax. So, the tree put forth its usual growth this summer, and as winter approaches it still has a healthy appearance and we are willing to bet a new hat that it will survive the winter.

- T. C. Hutchinson, N.Dak.

OH, WELL, YOU DON'T FIND CHAUNCEY IN THE LIST

You fellows who have failed to appreciate the poetic charm -- of the nobility -- of the handles doting parents gave you in your infancy can get some personal satisfaction from a few of the monickers passed out in the Carnegie District in Oklahoma.

I've been here on detail for more than a month, and Mike Thomsic has seen to it that I became acquainted, many of whom I met being Indians who have shelterbelts or have made application. The first reformed scalper I met was Chunky Finger Nails. A few days later -- Saturday afternoon -- we saw a dilapidated car pull up to the curb and out stepped Bull Coming Up, his wife, Cecelia Tough Feathers, and their abundant family. The group reminded one of Coxey's army going to a circus on kid's day. Then we stepped from the sidewalk to let Maggie Rivers and Constance Turtle Road undulate past. Other Indians encountered included: Pipe Woman Big Smoke, Willie Two Hatchet, Covered Medicine (sounds like a pill), Jennie Standing Twenty, Roscoe Austin Kautonepauhoodle, J. L. Freeman Oyebe, Maurice Medicine (Standing Silent), Mrs. Maurice Medicine (Stands in Sight), Gus White Shirt, Margaret Tonekeahquodle, Dennie Old Crow, Roberta Porcupine, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Red Hot and Mr. Odlephoydle.

Dealing with the Indians has its bad points. Each tract of Indian land is controlled by half a dozen heirs, all of whom must sign a cooperative agreement. Since most of them cannot write, fingerprints serve as signatures.

And, confidentially, Mike has been doing his best to boost my stock among the eligible young women at Carnegie. You see, Mike recently acquired a major stockholder, and he feels sorry for the lone wolves (either that, or he envies them their freedom; I can't say which).

- Alfred S. Ratcliff, Okla.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE FUTURE

I am going to venture a guess that before two years will have passed there will be a full-time "educational man" on each major district of the Prairie States Forestry Project. There are many men, especially those in direct contact with the field, who realize fully the importance of this phase of the work. I believe that it will become more intensely important as our work progresses. True, we are doing this work every day, but I do not believe it is done on an efficient and scientific basis.

I am terming this as "public education" because I feel that it goes farther than just mere public relationship. We may be in harmony with the people of a community, but fall far short of our goal because we have failed to present the picture in an educational light. The general public is not conservation-minded and it is our problem to educate them to become just that. We need to work with the local schools, 4-H Clubs, FFA, farmers' clubs, garden clubs, farm women's clubs, county home demonstration agents, county agricultural agents, Boy Scouts, and any other organization for the building of community spirit and cooperation. High school students of today will be the farmers and other citizens within a very few years. We need to look more than one year into the future when we do our planning.

There are many ways of accomplishing this, but it requires training. The training, I believe, should take place at the State or Regional Office and should dwell on the principles of salesmanship, psychology, public speaking, and Forest Service policy and administration as applied to the Prairie States Forestry Project. There should be a written examination.

Perhaps additional personnel or a shifting of responsibility is needed in each district; possibly the latter is preferable under the present set-up. Shifting of responsibility, I believe, would take an enormous load from the shoulders of the district supervisors and make for more efficient administration as well as better educational work.

It is of greatest importance that we carry out the Forest Service slogan: "The greatest good to the greatest number in the long run." This cannot be accomplished through "high pressure" salesmanship or other tactics which will reap dissatisfaction before the ultimate goal can be attained. Men chosen for this type of work should be carefully studied to make certain that they have the proper qualifications.

- Claude S. Asp, Okla.

## COUNTY FORESTRY ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Greer County Farm Forestry Association was organized on October 26 when local farm forestry units from three counties, a county agent, vocational agricultural teachers, county commissioners and a number of farm women met at Mangum, Oklahoma. After the meeting the group was entertained at the Howard Carleton, Jr., home by the Future Farmers of America. Coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts were served.

The enthusiasm for the shelterbelts was inspiring. One community was represented by a committee whose members requested that provisions be made for inclusion in the county association of their unit when it is formally organized.

There were many testimonials given by farmers. A couple of the outstanding statements follow:

H. E. Curtis, farmer: "I happen to be the first man to get a shelterbelt planted, in the Spring of 1935. Those trees have certainly grown. I will say that 95 percent or 98 percent of the trees lived and most of them are 20 feet tall. I have pines that are 8 feet tall, and the cedars certainly are growing. I think I will have more trees planted as I plan to cut my farm up into 40-acre blocks, and I am going to have trees all around it. I think every sandy-land farm in Greer County should have shelterbelts of trees planted on it."

B. O. Dennis, farmer: "We are enthusiastic about this shelterbelt project down around Altus, and we think it is a fine thing, but we have some farmers down there who don't like it -- afraid it will bring in too many birds, etc. The strips that have been planted are stopping the sand from blowing, and the farmers are now beginning to get their eyes opened."

- Howard Carleton, Jr., Okla.

#### GOOD CHARACTER BEST SALES ARGUMENT

The success of an organization such as ours is dependent in great measure on our standing in the communities and with the people with whom we cooperate. It is obviously true that we must be alert and aggressive, keen to take advantage of every opportunity to foster and encourage the purposes of our Project, but coupled with this must be the good will and respect of our cooperators. Lacking these, our best efforts are in vain. The degree of public good will and respect we enjoy is in turn chiefly dependent upon our reputation as a public service agency, to the building of which each of us, in whatever capacity from bottom to top and back again, contributes a share. The sincere desire to serve the public well and honestly will bring increasing opportunities to serve.

In our relation with the public let each of us continue to make every effort to maintain our reputation of good public servants; let each continue to prove the character of the organization.

- Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt, R.O.

#### SHELTERBELT DISCUSSED AT FORESTERS' MEETING

The Prairie States Forestry Project had a place on the program of the annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters at Columbus, Ohio, December 16, when State Forester Glen R. Durrell of Oklahoma spoke on the "Social and Economic Effects of the Great Plains Shelterbelt." His talk extended over about a 15-minute period and was followed by a motion picture showing shelterbelt scenes. Both Paul Roberts and Dave Olson had been scheduled for discussion after the principal talk, two papers having been prepared, but since Dave was sick in bed Paul had to carry the burden of discussion alone. Paul, coming in from a field trip a day before expected, and not knowing beforehand that he was on the program, did manage to find time to repack his suitcase before heading for Columbus.

- Harold J. Swan, R.O.

"The thing we're least up on is the thing we're most down on."

- R.L.S. in Region 9 Daily Contact



#### TRAINING MEETING FOR NEBRASKA

Nebraska field officers got together for a training meeting on December 12, 13 and 14 at the State Office in Grand Island. Work plans for December, January, and February, and for the spring planting season were outlined. Equipment needs were discussed and recorded for future consideration. The meeting was attended by Shelterbelt Assistants Taylor, Rickel, Joris and Hougland; Junior Foremen Eaton and Neubauer; and Emerson, Matthew, Champagne, and Smith of the State Office. Nurseryman Moffet dropped in the evening of the 12th and left his calling card. Nurseryman Meines sat in on the session the last day and it appears that he still has hopes of getting a "hoist" for use on the conifer nursery.

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Nurserymen Meines and Moffet left December 16 for their annual trek to the Southland. We sincerely hope that Meines is able to find better accommodations than a "seed house" upon his arrival in Texas.

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Construction of the combination nursery office and warehouse for use on the Norfolk nursery lease was started the second week in December. Carl Taylor is checking on the work of the carpenters.

- E. Garth Champagne, Nebr.

#### KANSAS PERSONNEL CHANGES

The Kansas unit experienced a 75 percent turnover in Junior Clerk-Stenographers recently. The temporary appointments of A. Lex Evans and Milo D. Davis, who had been assigned to Kingman and Kinsley, were terminated November 17. James D. Rose of the St. John office resigned November 11 to accept an appointment in the Department of the Interior at Washington, D.C. Effective November 7, Everett L. Kelly, Tom Sawyer and Albert E. McGraw were probationally appointed to the open positions at Kingman, Kinsley, and St. John, respectively.

A training school for the new appointees, dealing principally with basic regulations and fundamentals of Forest Service procedure, was conducted at Hutchinson on November 22 and 23. Also in attendance were Junior Clerk-Stenographer Lloyd Houston of the Hutchinson District office and Time Clerks Virginia Martin and LaVera Hecht of the Hutchinson Nursery and the Hutchinson District office.

- Harold E. Swim, Kans.

#### WE APOLOGIZE

Typographical errors will creep into any publication, no matter how carefully it is edited, and it always causes keen regret. PLAINS FORESTER had one error last issue which lopped ten years from the service record of William J. Cochran, who was transferred from Region Two to the South Dakota unit of the PSFP. It was stated that he entered the Forest Service in 1936, but should have read 1926.

#### I CAN'T FIND THIS IN THE SIGN MANUAL

A clever sign on the landing between the first and second floors at the courthouse reads, "Elevation, 2240 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$  feet more to the shelterbelt office." Just another way of saying the latchstring is out.

- Kinsley Graphic, Kinsley, Kans.

#### HILLEARYS VISIT -- AND SING!

R. J. (Dick) and Ihpa Hilleary, who now hail from Albuquerque, N. M., stopped off in Lincoln for a few days, en route to Virginia to spend Christmas with Dick's father. For the information of the newer members of the PSFP, Dick is the banjo-playing engineer who came to the Project from Region 1 at the beginning, and was transferred to Albuquerque in 1936. Dick has transferred his affections to a guitar, but at a songfest at Paul Roberts' home he demonstrated that if an instrument has strings, he can make it behave.

#### OLSON SPENDS FEW DAYS IN BED -- AND OH! HOW HE HATED IT

Dave Olson came down to the office the morning of December 18 for the first time in more than a week. He first thought it was a little cold, easy to shake off with a well-known remedy, but Mrs. Olson and the doctor ganged up on Dave to keep him in bed for a few days. Mrs. Olson will testify that Dave can kick off the covers more successfully and more often than the champion six-year-old who is only half sick and must stay in bed. Dave's pretty weak, but he's still "perking."

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\* MILDRED STAMPER'S FATHER DIES \*

\* Mildred Stamper, Mr. Roberts' secretary, was called to her \*

\* natal home at Sabetha, Kansas, December 12, because of the sudden death \*

\* of her father. PLAINS FORESTER joins the personnel of the PSFP in ex- \*

\* tending our sincere sympathies. \*

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#### SID BURTON WELL ON THE WAY TO RECOVERY

From all indications, it won't be long now before Sid Burton will be back pestering the field crew daytimes and at night helping to pay for boots for the likes of Sam Byars -- of course, Sid is given a run for his cash, since the era of Jesse James has passed. Sid, at the time of this writing, is up in northern Minnesota where he went with ulterior designs on the peace and happiness of wildlife and guides. Last reports are that he is enjoying himself immensely.

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\* When a daily newspaper wants to tell you something, it can be \*

\* made the last work of the day. \*

\* When a weekly newspaper has something to unload, its last chance \*

\* is never more than seven days before the date in mind. \*

\* But, when the publication time for PLAINS FORESTER was decided \*

\* upon, Christmas and such were not considered. \*

\* Our hearts are in the right place, just the same, and although \*

\* Christmas Day will have passed by the time you get this, we hope that \*

\* you had \*

\* A MERRY CHRISTMAS \*

\* and that you will have \*

\* A HAPPY NEW YEAR - Ed. \*

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